Heavenly Children

The Brave Defender

Imam Ali (A)

2

SUGGESTED AGES 7+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj).
May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

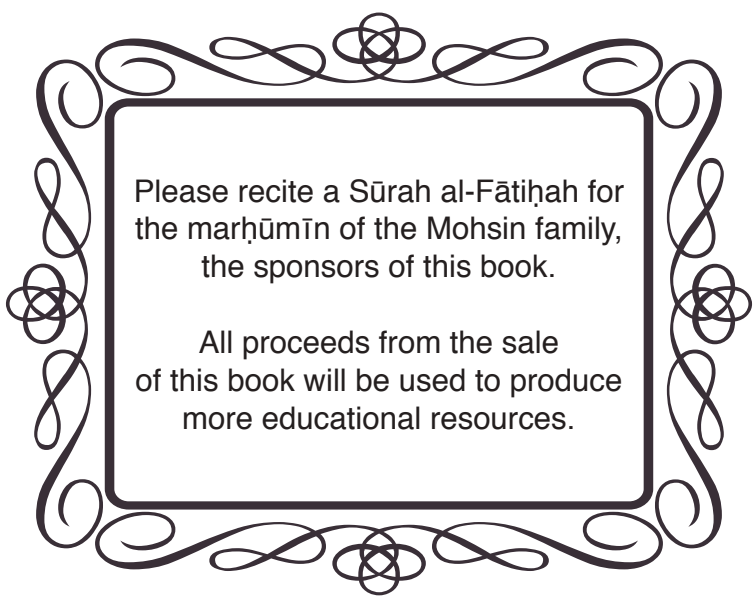
Abul Faḍl Hādī Manish

Acknowledgments

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.
Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah (swt), but we would like to sincerely thank Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Brother Aliakbar Shaheidari, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Fatemah Mithani, Amna Hussain, Asieh Zarghami, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Kisae Nazar, Sarah Assaf, Nadia Dossani, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Fatima Hussain, Fatemah Meghji, Abeda Khimji, Sakeena Kalyan, Zehra Abbas, and Rumina Hashmani. We would especially like to thank Nainava Publications for their artwork and contributions.

May Allah (swt) bless them in this world and the next.


Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Mohsin family, the sponsors of this book.
All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to produce more educational resources.

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of the *Heavenly Children* series is to foster the love of Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) in children and to help them establish the 14 Maʿṣūmīn as their role models. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh. We pray to Allah to give us the strength and *tawfīq* to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think 'outside of the box' by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum, and begin their life-long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of *Darse Khārij* from the *Ḥawzah* (the Highest Level of Islamic Studies in the Seminary), Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, having grown up in India, and now residing in the United States, he has had the honor of traveling to various communities and meeting many community leaders. He values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials, and to create open source platforms so that information and resources are available and accessible to everyone around the world.

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family.
Share the word, and join the mission.

Ahmad's Mama and Baba had just shared some exciting news with him: they would be going on a trip to visit all the fourteen Maʿṣūmīn. Mama had just told him about Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) as a child.

"Mama, will we also be able to visit Imām ʿAlī (a)?" asked Ahmad.

Mama beamed. "Yes, of course! We will visit him in Najaf, where he is buried, inshāʾAllāh!" she replied.

"Alright!" exclaimed Ahmad excitedly. "Baba, I remember Imām ʿAlī (a) was Prophet Muḥammad's (ṣ) biggest supporter, but can you please remind me more about him?"

His father answered, "Sure, my son, it would be my honor! Imām ʿAlī (a) is our first Imām, remember? He was the cousin of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), and he was also married to Prophet Muḥammad's daughter. He was born on Friday, the 13th of Rajab, and he was born in a place where nobody else has ever been born!"

"I know! The Holy Kaʿbah!" Ahmad was so excited to know this exceptional fact.

"That's right! MāshāʾAllāh. Allah allowed the wall of the Kaʿbah to crack open so that his mother, Fāṭimah bint* Asad, could enter.
She was Allah's special guest for three days. She came out with Imām ʿAlī (a) in her arms, and presented him to his father, Abū Ṭālib."

Ahmad thought for a minute. "So, how come he's not buried near the Kaʿbah?"

Mama replied, "Well, Imām ʿAlī (a) had moved to a place called Kūfah to lead the Muslim ummah. Sadly, he was struck with a sword while he was in sajdah during Fajr prayers in Masjid al-Kūfah on the 19th of Ramaḍān and became a shahīd** three days later on the 21st of Ramaḍān. That's why he's buried nearby in Najaf."

"Oh," said Ahmad softly. Suddenly a question came to his mind. "I know Imām ʿAlī (a) was Prophet Muḥammad's supporter, but can you tell me how?"

"Well," Baba said, "Firstly, he was very, very brave and always stood up for the truth. You see, Imām ʿAlī (a) was basically raised by Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) in his home. So, he learned the best akhlāq. Like the Prophet (ṣ), he was always fair, honest, caring, content, and polite. He treated everyone in the best way. That is why Allah chose him to be the successor of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ). Let me tell you a story of how Imām ʿAlī (a) was brave, even as a young boy."

* Daughter of

**Shahīd: Someone who dies in the path of Allah

The sun was setting over the city of Mecca as the Noble Prophet (ṣ) entered his home. His body was covered with cuts and bruises, and blood was dripping from his forehead. The Prophet (ṣ) went out to the backyard and used a clay jug of water to wash the bloodied wounds on his face.

As soon as Imām ʿAlī (a) heard the Prophet (ṣ) enter the home, he eagerly ran outside to greet him. His happiness soon faded when he saw what had happened to the Prophet (ṣ)! Imām ʿAlī (a) quickly ran back inside to bring a towel for the Prophet (ṣ) to dry off with.

As the Prophet (ṣ) wiped his face, he could see that the young Imām was alarmed and upset to see him in this condition. Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) gave Imām ʿAlī (a) a reassuring smile. Still, Imām ʿAlī (a) let out a sad sigh. He knew exactly what had happened; the enemies of Islam had hurt his beloved Prophet (ṣ) once again.

The Prophet's enemies had instructed their children to bother the Prophet (ṣ) as much as they could. Every time Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) would step outside, the children would gather in groups, throw stones, and make fun of him. They did not understand who the Prophet (ṣ) was or what his mission was. They just followed what the misguided people told them to do.

Whenever the Prophet (ṣ) was in the presence of his uncle, Abū Ṭālib, nobody dared to hurt him. Abū Ṭālib was a respected elder in Mecca. However, in his absence, the enemies of Allah would try to hurt the Prophet (ṣ).

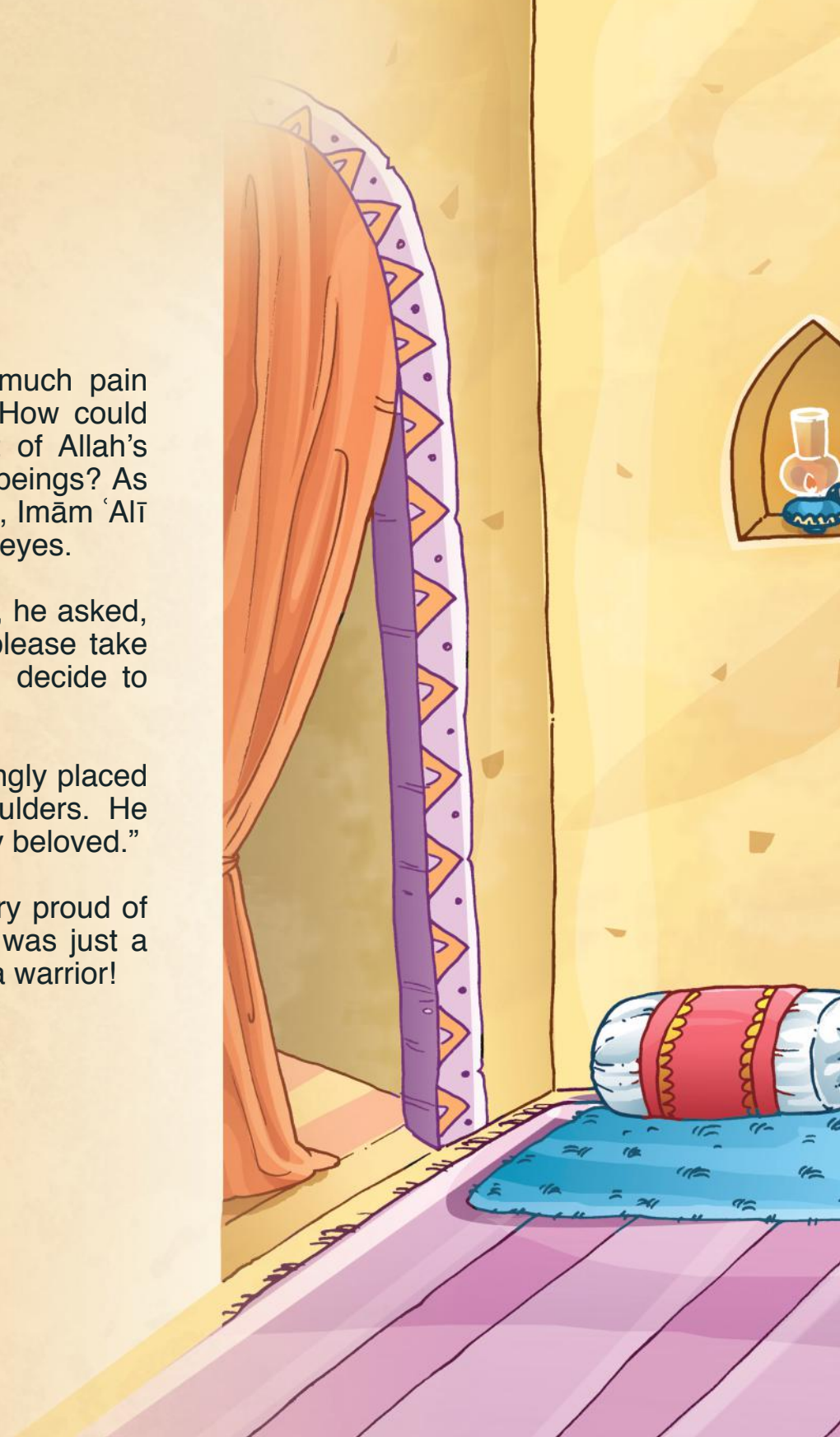
Imām ʿAlī (a) wanted that he could be just like his father, Abū Ṭālib, and keep the Prophet (ṣ) safe from harm.

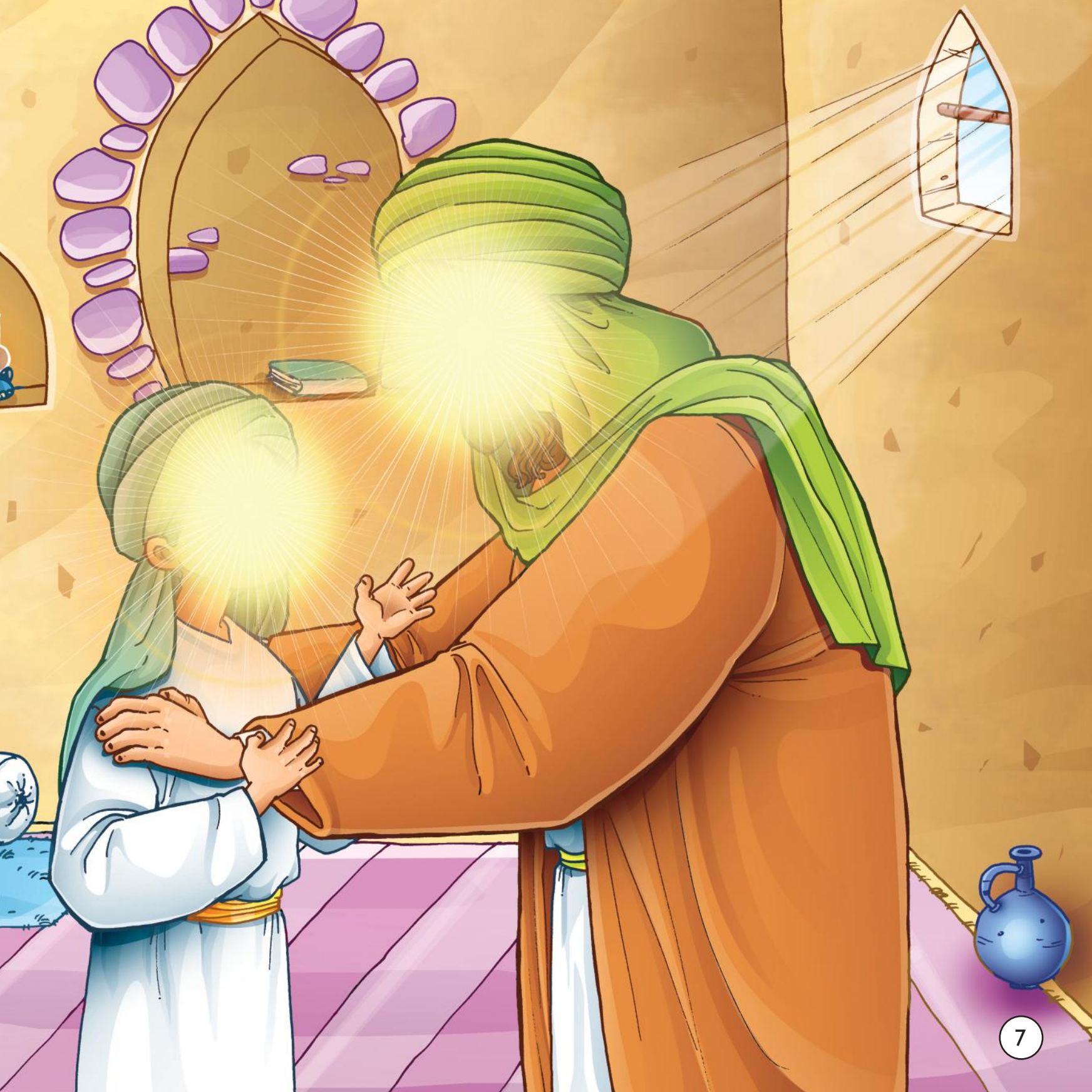
Seeing the Prophet (ṣ) in so much pain made Imām ʿAlī's heart ache. How could the people do this to the best of Allah's creation and kindest of human beings? As he glanced at the Prophet's face, Imām ʿAlī (a) could see the sadness in his eyes.

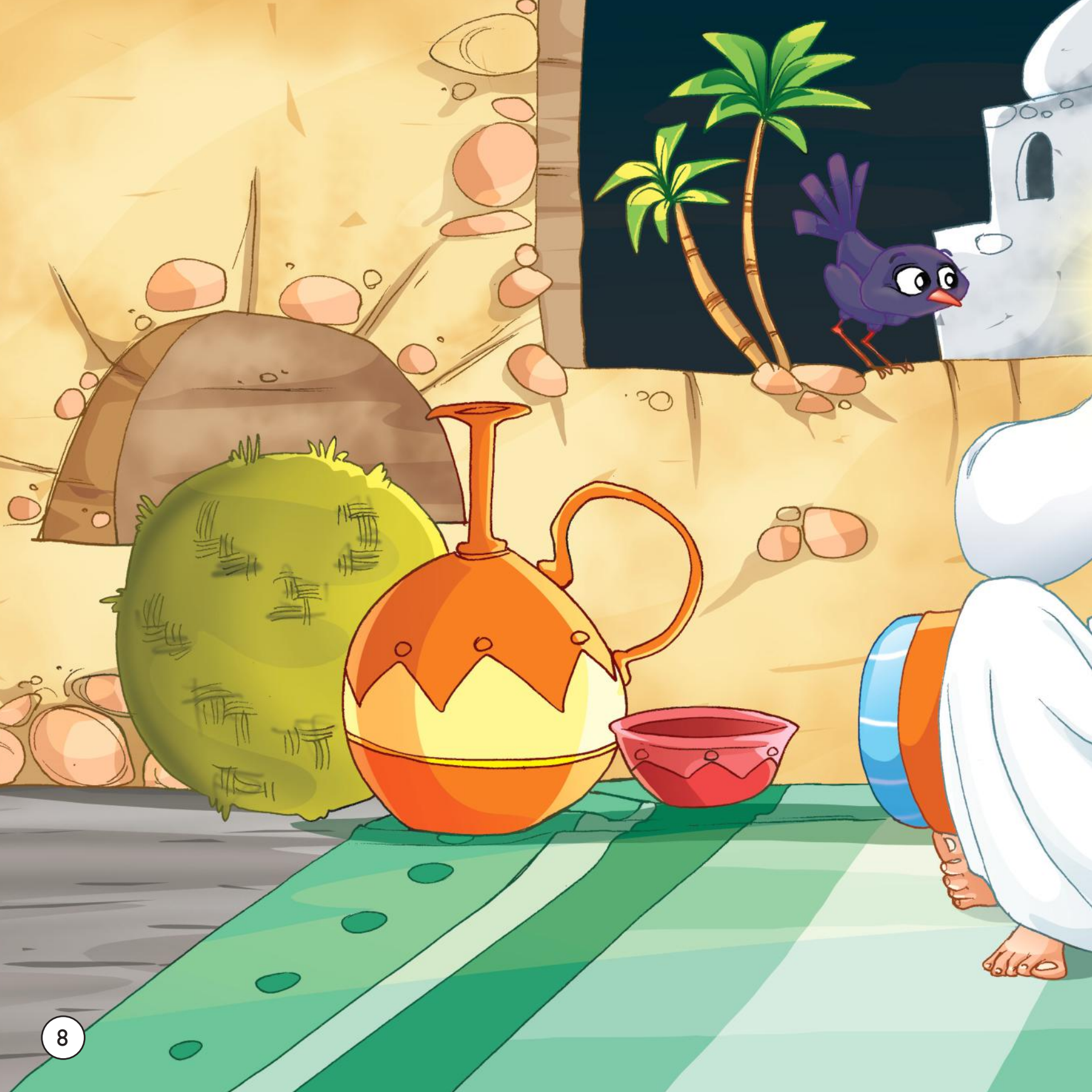
He had to do something. Slowly, he asked, "Dear Rasūlullāh (ṣ), can you please take me with you the next time you decide to leave the house?"

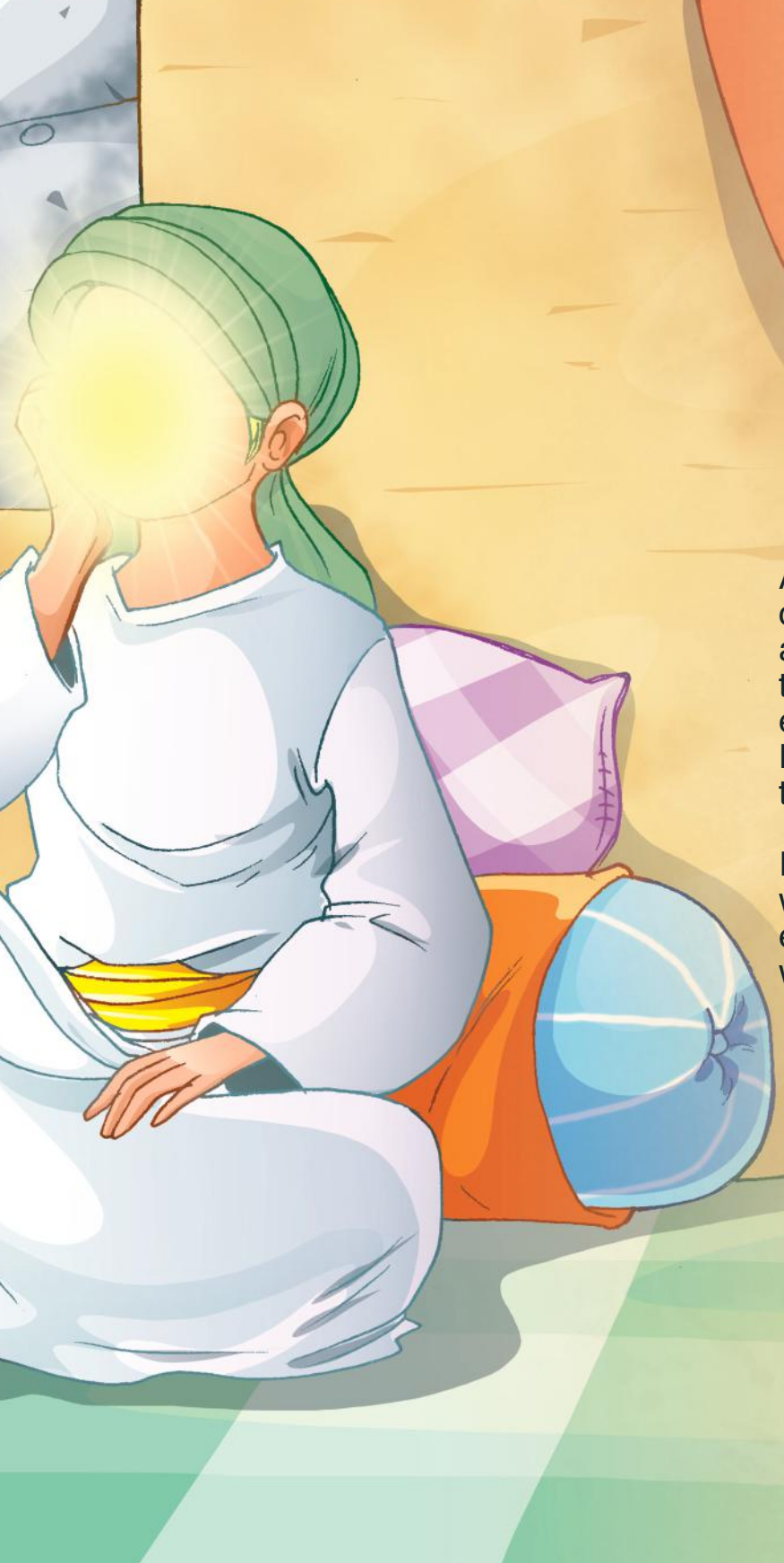
The Prophet (ṣ) smiled and lovingly placed his hands on Imām ʿAlī's shoulders. He nodded in agreement. "Okay, my beloved."

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) was very proud of Imām ʿAlī (a). Even though he was just a young boy, he was as brave as a warrior!





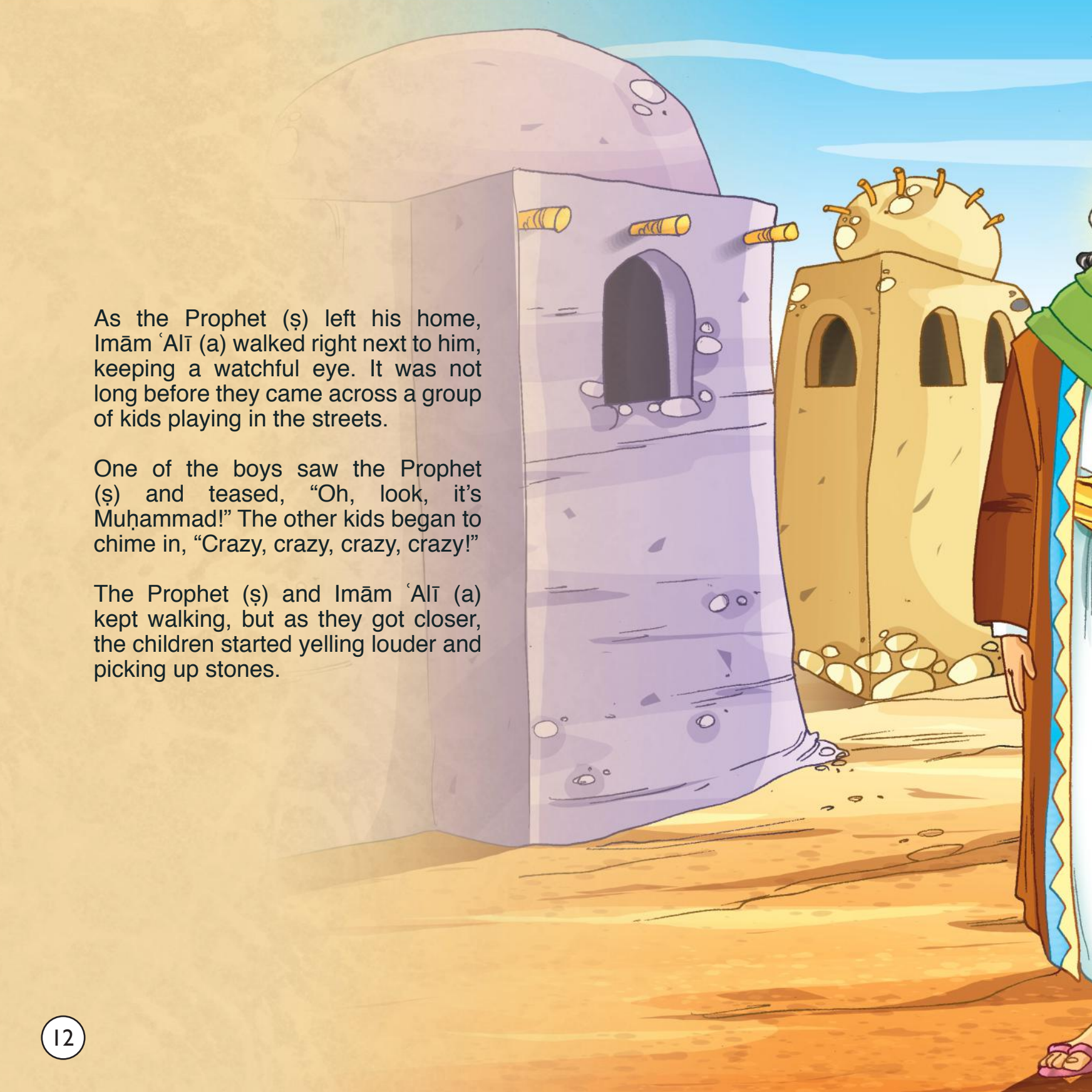




As night fell, Imām ʿAlī (a) lay in bed, but he could not sleep. He sat up. He kept thinking about the pain and sadness he had seen in the Prophet's eyes that day. How could the enemies torture his beloved Prophet (ṣ)? Everyone knew how kind and trustworthy the Prophet (ṣ) was!

In that very moment, he made a decision: he would never let anyone harm the Prophet (ṣ) ever again! Only after making this promise was he able to fall peacefully asleep.

The next morning, as the Noble Prophet (ṣ) got ready to go out for the day, he found Imām ʿAlī (a) waiting for him, dressed and ready to go. The Prophet (ṣ) gazed at Imām ʿAlī (a) in awe. This young boy was only ten years old, but he looked much stronger and bigger than his age and his eyes were full of courage. Looking at Imām ʿAlī (a) gave Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) an extra boost of strength.



As the Prophet (ṣ) left his home, Imām ʿAlī (a) walked right next to him, keeping a watchful eye. It was not long before they came across a group of kids playing in the streets.

One of the boys saw the Prophet (ṣ) and teased, “Oh, look, it’s Muḥammad!” The other kids began to chime in, “Crazy, crazy, crazy, crazy!”

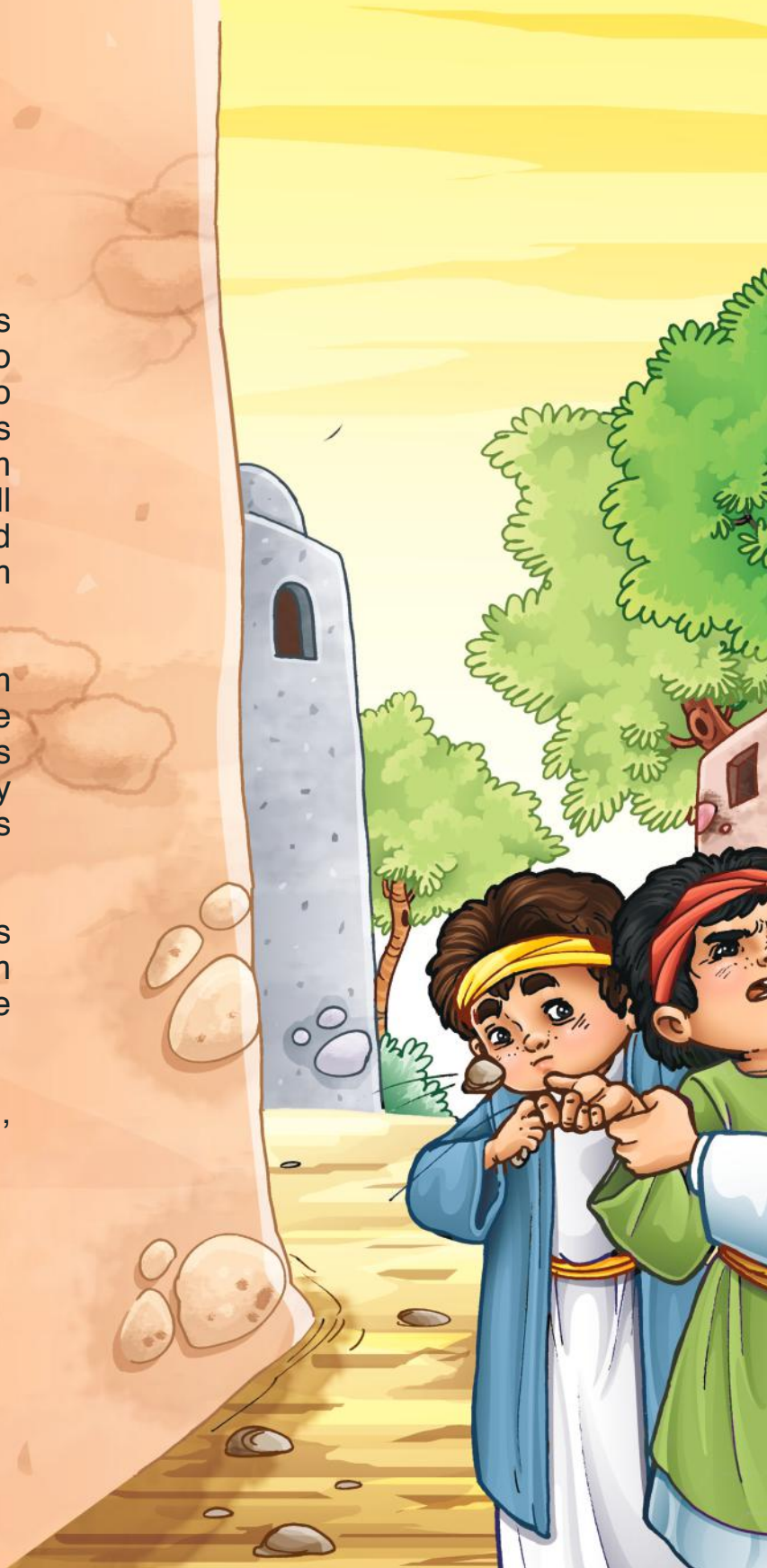
The Prophet (ṣ) and Imām ʿAlī (a) kept walking, but as they got closer, the children started yelling louder and picking up stones.

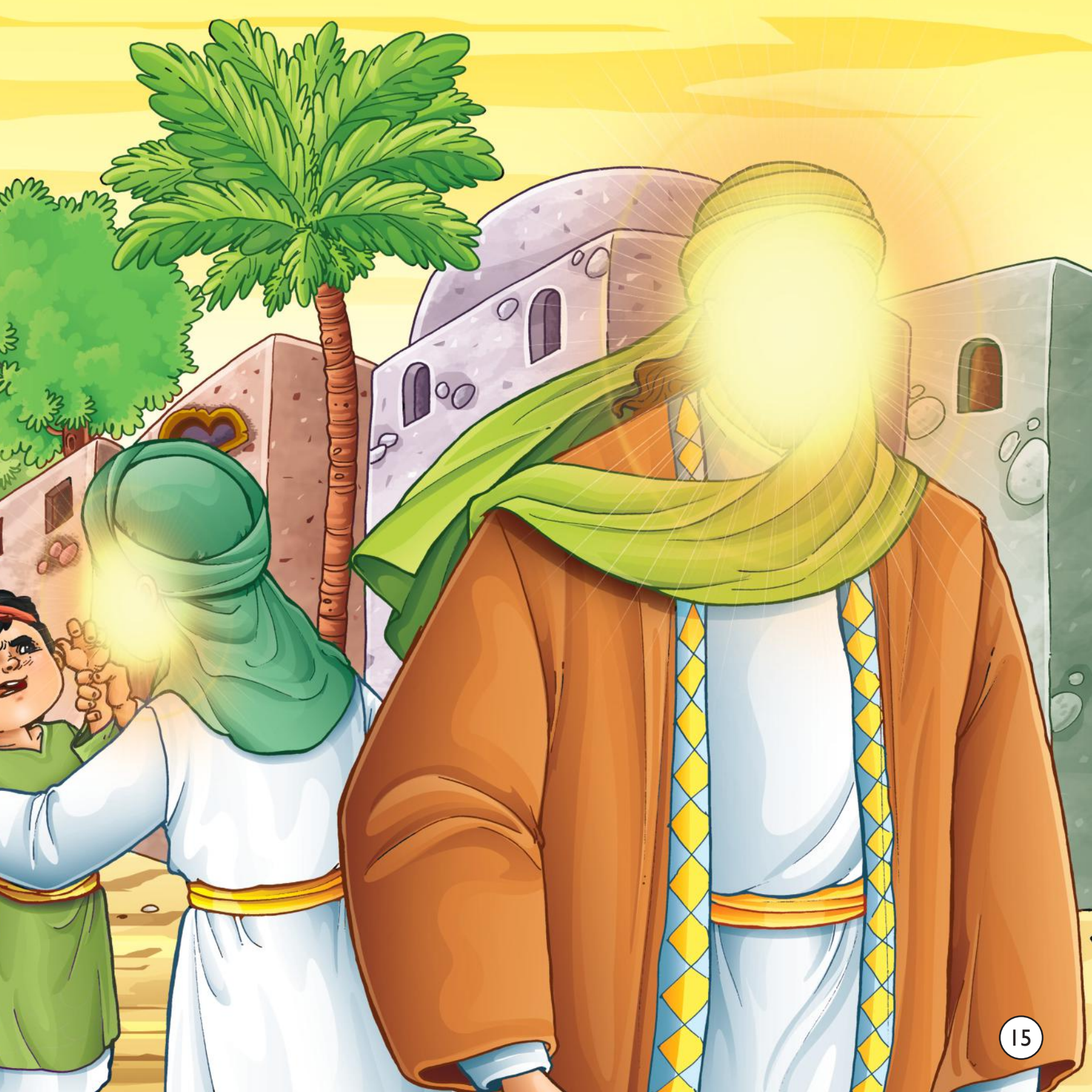
One boy gripped a stone in his fingers and lifted his hand back, poised to throw. But just as he pitched forward to throw the rock, a firm hand grasped his wrist, twisting his arm and forcing him to unclench his fingers. The stone fell to the ground. Shocked, the boy looked up and saw that it was the young Imām ʿAlī (a). His face quivered with fear.

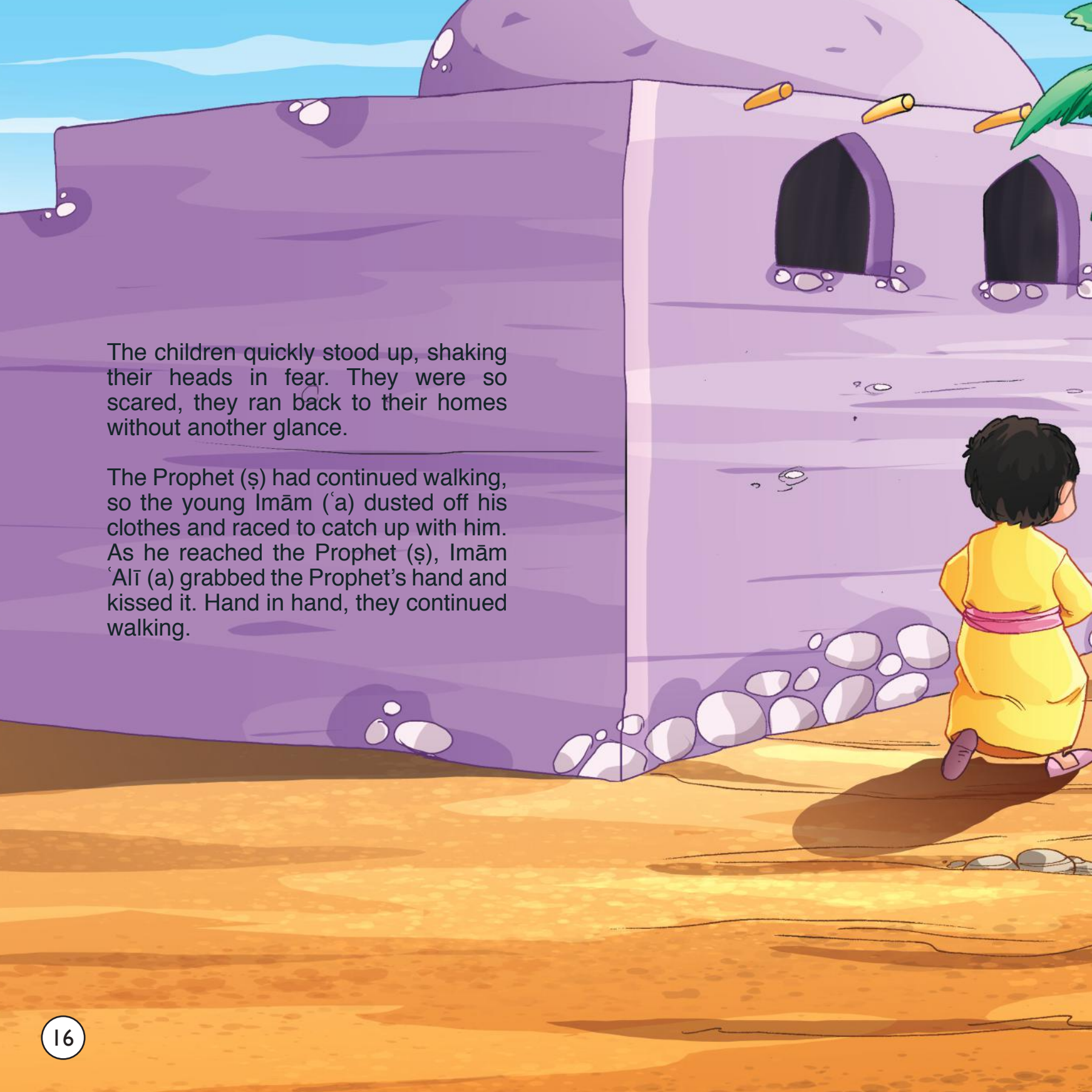
As the boy stumbled back, Imām ʿAlī (a) bolted towards the rest of the children, who had not noticed this young challenger in their midst. They were still yelling and gathering stones to pelt at the Noble Prophet (ṣ).

Imām ʿAlī (a) tackled them all! He was able to wrestle the stones away from every kid. Soon, they were all on the ground, sobbing and moaning.

Imām ʿAlī (a) boldly asked them, “Anybody else want to throw rocks?!”







The children quickly stood up, shaking their heads in fear. They were so scared, they ran back to their homes without another glance.

The Prophet (ṣ) had continued walking, so the young Imām (ʿa) dusted off his clothes and raced to catch up with him. As he reached the Prophet (ṣ), Imām ʿAlī (a) grabbed the Prophet's hand and kissed it. Hand in hand, they continued walking.

From that day forward, Imām ʿAlī (a) tried his best never to leave the Prophet's side.

Every day, the children of Mecca would see Imām ʿAlī (a) walking alongside the Prophet (ṣ). Yet, each and every day, all they could do was look at them silently because they no longer dared to even shout at the Prophet of Islam (ṣ).

Aʿyān ash-Shīʿah, Vol. 1, P. 372

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All Glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

Akhlāq: Islamic morals and ethics

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* of the Qurʾān, which is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Baba: Father

Duʿāʾ: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Kaʿbah: The most Sacred Mosque for Muslims, situated in Mecca and is the direction of prayer

Mama: Mother

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

MāshāʾAllāh: As God wishes

Maʿṣūmīn: One who is inerrant (free of all sins, flaws, and impurities) through the divine protection and knowledge of Allah

Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

SubḥānAllāh: All Glory and Praise belongs to God

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God (Allah) that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

Ziyārah: Visiting the house of Allah, grave of the Noble Prophet, Imāms and other important personalities

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

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